

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 CU-04 HA-05 IO-13 /093 W
-----121216 100253Z /64

R 091004Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5457
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 17800

BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS-1
TAGS: OREP, PGOV, UR, US
SUBJECT: INVITATION TO SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION; RUBEN ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG

REF: (A) STATE 180303, (B) MOSCOW 17696

1. DURING MY DECEMBER 8 COURTESY CALL ON V.P. RUBEN,
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES, I REFERRED
TO THE INVITATION BY SPEAKER O'NEILL AND MAJORITY
LEADER BYRD FOR A DELEGATION OF THE SUPREME SOVIET
TO VISIT THE US IN JANUARY 1978 (REF A). EXPRESSING
THANKS FOR THE INVITATION, RUBEN SAID THE DELEGATION
WOULD BE LED BY BORIS N. PONOMAREV, CHAIRMAN OF THE
COUNCIL OF NATIONALITIES' AFFAIRS COMMISSION. THE
OTHER MEMBERS HAD NOT YET BEEN CHOSEN BUT THE SOVIET
SIDE WOULD INFORM US IN GOOD TIME.

2. STRESSING (AS HAD SOLOMENTSEV BEFORE HE RECENTLY
VISITED THE US) THAT THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE
VISIT WOULD BE TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY BILATERAL
RELATIONS, RUBEN THEN HELD FORTH ON THE "HIGHEST
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VALUE", PEACE, AND THE SOVIET VERSION OF THE
"HIGHEST HUMAN RIGHT": THE "RIGHT TO LIVE WITHOUT
FEAR OF LOSING ONE'S LIFE". IN THIS CONNECTION
HE MADE SOME SNIDE REMARKS ABOUT AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG'S
HUMAN RIGHTS STANCE AT BELGRADE WHICH DOVETAILED
WITH RECENT SOVIET PRESS ATTACK (REF B). I TOLD
RUBEN IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS THAT IN MAKING HIS

PRESENTATIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS MY GOOD FRIEND
AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG SPEAKS FOR ALL AMERICANS
(MEMCON BEING POUCHED).

3. A HARD LINE IDEOLOGUE, PONOMAREV IS A CANDIDATE MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO AND A CC SECRETARY WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE LAST VISITED THE US AS HEAD OF THE 1974 SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION AND WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT NIXON. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, BREZHNEV RECEIVED BOTH CODEL SCOTT/HUMPHREY AND CODEL ALBERT. I RECOMMEND THAT IN ADDITION TO FORMAL MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, THE SOVIET DELEGATION BE SHOWN HOW A US SENATOR OR CONGRESSMAN SPENDS HIS DAY. THE OFFICIAL SOVIET COMPREHENSION OF CONGRESS' ROLE IN THE US POLITICAL SYSTEM IS POOR, AND WE BELIEVE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO IMPROVE IT.

TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MOSCOW17800
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770459-0990
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771273/aaaackay.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3db29407-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 180303, 77 MOSCOW 17696
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 295369
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INVITATION TO SUPREME SOVIET DELEGATION; RUBEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG
TAGS: OREP, PGOV, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3db29407-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009